

Commodity Advisory Council (CAC) Meeting

May 9-10, 2001

Minutes

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Sarah Castanis called the Commodity Advisory Council Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at Lake Cumberland State Park.

CAC Members present were:

Chair-Person	Martha Dysart representing Julia Bauscher	Region 9 Rep.	Kathy Payton/Sandra McIntosh
Vice-Chair	Vacant	RCCI Rep.	Gina Rose/Linda Stephens
Region 1 Rep.	Victor Steffen	Independent School Rep.	Absent
Region 3 Rep.	Absent	Private School Rep.	Vacant
Region 4 Rep.	Carol McQueen	Industry Rep.	Larry Blundred
Region 5 Rep.	Eleanor Hall/Jannette Otten	Education Rep.	Absent
Region 6 Rep.	Mary Kuhn	Food Distribution	Sarah Castanis
Region 7 Rep.	Susan Wiley		Teresa Ulery
Region 8 Rep.	Linda Payne		Angela Wash Vicki Rodgers

Sarah Castanis gave the welcoming remarks. She introduced Angela Wash, a new employee with the Division of Food Distribution. Angela will be ordering and allocating food as well as assuming other duties now being performed by Teresa Ulery. She also informed the CAC Members that Julia Bauscher had asked to be replaced as ChairPerson due to her heavy workload and the Council would be electing a new ChairPerson and Vice-Chair. Sarah also requested input for agenda items from Council members.

Vicki Rodgers asked for approval of the Minutes of the November 15-16, 2001, meeting. The Minutes were approved.

Larry Blundred, Industry Representative:

- ◆ Asked the Council to review the list of state-approved Processors to see if there were any issues. If there is a problem with products received, the broker should be contacted first and then the manufacturer. Food Service staff should be given the contact person's name to call in case the Food Service Director is not available when a problem arises.
- ◆ Discussed information received during the 2001 ACDA Conference held in Greensboro, N.C., March 24-28. There will be ground beef this year under the same test standards as last year along with the higher price. However, there should be no delays this year in getting the beef. USDA wanted to implement new specifications for testing ground meat for pathogens but was put on hold to be re-evaluated. These specifications were unanimously approved by ACDA membership. Larry urged CAC members to write to Ann Veneman, Secretary of Agriculture, to voice their support of the new revised specifications and let her know she is doing the right thing. There will be no ground pork, but there will be pork picnics, which make a better end product.
- ◆ Brought before the Council a new Diversion Order Form that could be used by all processors regardless of the commodity they process. The Division of Food Distribution needs to let all state-approved processors know to use this form. Also, the Division should send to each Food Service Director a list of processors showing each product they offer, how many pounds of donated food it takes to produce one case, and how many servings are in a case. They can then figure how many pounds they need to divert. The Council agreed this is very important and could help the Food Service Directors when ordering.

Teresa Ulery, Branch Manager, Division of Food Distribution:

- ◆ Discussed the election of a ChairPerson and a Vice-Chair and their responsibilities. The ChairPerson is responsible for gathering information for the agenda, coordinates the meeting, and compiles letters. The Vice-Chair fills in for the Chair. Eleanor Hall, Region 5, was elected ChairPerson and Victor Steffen, Region 1, was elected Vice-Chair.
- ◆ Gave a PowerPoint presentation on New Commodity Hold and Recall Procedures. The Division will be posting both commercial and commodity recalls on their website.
- ◆ Discussed Core Proposal, Project No. 6 – Multi-Stop Pilot. We have been limited to 2 delivery stops per truck. This would allow us to make 3 delivery stops per truck resulting in fewer cases and less time for product to be stored.

Lunch 12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Teresa Ulery, Branch Manager, Division of Food Distribution

- ◆ Discussed results of Administrator's Conference Evaluation. There were many positive comments. The Council agreed another conference should be held this year and that new Food Service Directors need this instruction. The end of the month would be the best time for everyone to attend. CAC members were asked to think about ideas and topics for a future conference.

Vicki Rodgers, Processing Specialist, Division of Food Distribution:

- ◆ Results of the Commodity Acceptability Survey – Schools would like to get more canned fruit. It was suggested that we send out an e-mail stating that the water-packed hams can be frozen. There was some concern regarding pears that ripen too fast.
- ◆ Results of the Office Survey – It seems most everyone was satisfied with the Division's performance in responding to telephone calls, e-mails, and providing assistance. It was suggested that CAC members make themselves known to schools in their regions and contact them for input into the meetings.

Angela Wash, Internal Policy Analyst, Division of Food Distribution:

- ◆ Results of Distributor Survey – Schools seem to be somewhat satisfied with distributors. Mary Kuhn recommended putting in the next contract that distributors have fax machines and e-mail, if possible. Distributors have until 4:00 p.m. to make deliveries. If they arrive after 4:00 p.m., unless prior arrangements have been made, they must return the next day to make the delivery.

Dave Hamilton, representing Zartic, Inc., gave a presentation on products offered by Zartic, including beef, pork, and chicken products.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Angela Wash, Internal Policy Analyst, Division of Food Distribution:

- ◆ Gave a report on commodity orders. At this time over \$1.1 million dollars of bonus products have been ordered for the 2002 school year. Orders for beef, pork, chicken, turkey and eggs will be placed the last of May, as well as Group B orders.

Vicki Rodgers, Processing Specialist, Division of Food Distribution:

- ◆ Is in the process of reviewing Processing Agreements for the upcoming year. New processors are: Cherokee Foods (processes chicken), Upstate Farms (processes non-fat dry milk into yogurt), and Zartic (processes beef, pork, and chicken). We have ordered 62 trucks of product this year compared to 49 last year.
- ◆ Explained the revised USDA Commodity Complaint Form that has been designed to make it easier for State Agencies to report the information needed by USDA when filing a complaint. The revised form will be put on the Division's website and can be completed and sent to the Division via e-mail. If they prefer, states may continue to call in complaints to the Complaint Hotline.

Regional Reports:

- ◆ Region 1 – Victor Steffen – Sent out e-mail requesting any concerns and only received one response.
- ◆ Region 2 – Martha Dysart – Problems with pears, not acceptable. Developed a tropical oatmeal cookie using dried cranberries.
- ◆ Region 3 – Not Present
- ◆ Region 4 – Carol McQueen – Sent out e-mail requesting any concerns and received three responses.
- ◆ Region 5 – Eleanor Hall – Received three responses to e-mail. Things are going well. Clem's Refrigerated Foods has been doing a great job.
- ◆ Region 6 – Mary Kuhn – Received three responses to e-mail. Trimble County expressed their thanks for the Conference. Hardin County ran out of DOD money. An account can be set up with DOD by sending in the required paperwork to pay from the 4 & 11 money. The account should be set up now for the next school year. The question was asked if we could use the D-1, D-2, and D-3 information and tie the dollar amounts together to keep a running total for each district with total number of cases and amounts. Teresa said there will be a website where schools can compare their request against order placed and see year-to-date balance on entitlement.
- ◆ Region 7 – Susan Wylie – Everyone was happy with the Conference and how well organized it was. Shelia Redmon, Henderson County, is having delivery problems with the alternate schedule. In the last six months, she has only received one delivery per month. This needs to be looked into and explained to the distributors. It was discovered on a tour of Davis Distributors that they have no loading dock, but they are doing the best they can.
- ◆ Region 8 – Linda Payne for Joyce Alexander – There was a concern about late deliveries and having to pay overtime. Unless the distributor calls and you agree to stay after 4:00 p.m., you do not have to stay. Jane Smith has a concern about processed items arriving all at once.
- ◆ Region 9 – Kathy Payton – mentioned working with Institutional Distributors on delivery.
- ◆ RCCI – Gina Rose – No complaints. Juvenile Justice had 27 facilities with separate contracts and they are now in the process of combining them into 8 separate contracts. If any schools have product left over, they should call Gina because they can definitely use it.

Teresa Ulery, Branch Manager, Division of Food Distribution

- ◆ Talked about irradiation. The CAC members wanted a legal opinion as to whether they should be notified that food had been irradiated and do the schools have to accept it.

- ◆ Discussed commercial labeling. Companies will have the option of using USDA labels. Schools won't know if it is a USDA commodity, and this could cause major problems with keeping inventory. The Council will be informed of any future updates on commercial labeling.
- ◆ Farm-to-School – Will be statewide this year with 130 schools out of 285 participating. New item offered this year will be seedless watermelon. Other items are the fall decoration package, red and golden delicious apples (possibly), broccoli, and red and green cabbage.
- ◆ Upcoming events – Summer Area Workshops
 - ASFSA – June 18-21, 2001, in Owensboro
 - KASFA – October in Lexington
- ◆ Next CAC Meeting recommendations – September 13-14, 2001
 - September 20-21, 2001 (first choice)
 - November 15-16, 2001
 - Lake Barkley (first choice)
 - Lake Cumberland
 - Barren River

Sarah Castanis, Director, Division of Food Distribution:

- ◆ Closing remarks: Convey the information from this meeting to your schools. Try to get responses and topics for the next CAC meeting so the schools can benefit from these meetings. Sarah asked if there were any suggestions for changes in the Council. It was suggested that Eleanor Hall and Victor Steffen put the agenda together for the next meeting.
- ◆ A request was made for the beef specs to be pulled off the USDA website and sent to the CAC members. They will let us know their position and Eleanor Hall will compile a letter to Ann Veneman.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.